

# LESSON 14

*Audaces fortuna juvat.*  
Fortune favors the bold.

## Key Words

assail  
avail  
convalesce  
desultory

evolve  
exult  
prevalent

resilient  
salient  
valor  
vulnerable

## SALIO, SALIRE, SALUI, SALTUM <L. "to jump," "to leap"

### 1. **assail** (ə sāl') [as = ad <L. "to"]

*tr. v.* 1. To attack violently; to assault.

Mistaking distant windmills for unfriendly giants, the legendary Don Quixote **assails** one of them with his lance.



2. To attack with words; to ridicule or criticize harshly.

Movie reviewers may keep audiences away if they **assail** a film too harshly.

**assailant**, *n.*

### 2. **desultory** (dēs'əl tōr'ē, dēs'əl tōr'ē) [de <L. "down from"]

*adj.* 1. Jumping from one thing to another; rambling.

After hearing five **desultory** oral book reports, the class rejoiced when the bell rang.

2. Haphazard or random.

After a **desultory** search for the lost ball, the golfers gave up.

### 3. **exult** (ĕg zŭlt', ĭg zŭlt') [e = ex <L. "from," "out of"]

*intr. v.* To rejoice greatly; to be triumphant.

Althea Gibson **exulted** when she won the Wimbledon crown in 1957.

**exultant**, *adj.*; **exultantly**, *adv.*; **exultation**, *n.*

### 4. **resilient** (rĭ zĭl'yənt, rĭ zĭl'ē ənt) [re <L. "back"]

*adj.* 1. Capable of returning to the original shape after being bent or stretched.

Rubber is a **resilient** material.

2. Buoyant; recovering quickly from illness, change, or misfortune.

Despite a fall that paralyzed her in 1955, the champion skier Jill Kinmont was **resilient**.

**resilience**, *n.*

### 5. **salient** (sā'lē ənt)

*adj.* 1. Conspicuous; striking.

The **salient** landmark in St. Louis is the Gateway Arch.

2. Projecting up or out.

The roofs of Chinese pagodas curve up, ending with **salient** figures such as dragons.



## Familiar Words

insult  
result  
somersault

## Challenge Words

salacious  
sally  
sauté

**Familiar Words**

equivalent  
prevail  
valiant  
valid  
value

**Challenge Word**

valetudinarian

**VALEO, VALERE, VALUI, VALITUM** <L. "to be strong"

6. **convalesce** (kŏn'və lēs') [*con* = *cum* <L. "with"]

*intr. v.*

To recover health after illness.

Until this century a tuberculosis patient would expect to **convalesce** slowly in a sanitarium for a year.

**convalescence**, *n.*



7. **avail** (ə val') [*a* <Middle English intensifier]

*tr. v.* To use to one's own advantage (to *avail* oneself of).

The salient characteristic of the young heroes of Horatio Alger's stories is the ability to **avail** themselves of every chance to prosper.

**NOTA BENE:** As a noun, *avail* also means "benefit" or "advantage," usually in a phrase such as "to no *avail*."

8. **prevalent** (prēv'ə lənt) [*pre* <L. "before," "forth"]

*adj.* Widely occurring or in general use.

Destruction of rain forests continues to be **prevalent**, causing harmful changes in weather around the globe.

**prevail**, *intr. v.*; **prevalence**, *n.*

9. **valor** (vāl'ər)

*n.* Heroic courage; bravery.

A British nurse executed by firing squad during World War I, Edith Cavell proved her **valor** by protecting Allied soldiers from discovery.

**valorous**, *adj.*

**Familiar Words**

involve  
revolve  
revolution  
vault  
volt

**VOLVO, VOLVERE, VOLVI, VOLUTUM** <L. "to revolve"

10. **evolve** (ī vŏlv') [*e* = *ex* <L. "from," "out of"]

*intr. v.* 1. To develop gradually.

The book as we know it **evolved** from handwriting on papyrus to printing with movable type, a process invented by Johann Gutenberg.

2. To change from a simpler to a more complex form of animal or plant life.

Biologists propose that all living things have **evolved** to their present forms through successive generations.

**evolution**, *n.*; **evolutionary**, *adj.*

11. **voluble** (vŏl'yə bəl)

*adj.* Speaking in a steady, easy flow of words; talkative; glib.

Parents often become **voluble** when explaining how things were when they were young.

**volubility**, *n.*; **volubly**, *adv.*

**Challenge Words**

circumvolve  
convoluted  
devolve  
involution